

U.S. Dropped Charges to Hide Spy Network,

Yippie leader Abbie Hoffman said the government dropped two indictments against him because it feared exposing its "pervasive network of illegal spying" with wiretaps. The indictments had resulted from Hoffman's role in the 1971 Mayday demonstrations here.

Hoffman made the statement at a news conference in

New York on Friday, after U.S. District Judge John Lewis Smith Jr. granted the Justice Department's request for dismissal of the indictments.

The indictments, returned May 13, 1971, charged Hoffman with interstate travel to organize and participate in a riot, and obstructing a policeman during a riot. Hoffman

was a leader of the collective that organized the massive antiwar demonstrations here earlier that month. Upon conviction, the charges carry up to 10 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine.

U.S. Attorney Harold Titus had asked Smith on Thursday to dismiss the indictments. Titus said he was acting as the result of a Supreme Court ruling on June 19 which declared

unconstitutional eavesdropping on "domestic subversives" without a judge's prior approval. That ruling came in the case of Lawrence F. Plamondon, a White Panther accused in a bomb conspiracy.

Charges against Plamondon and two other White Panther party leaders also were dropped on Friday.

Judge Smith had stayed pro-

Hoffman Claims

ceedings in Hoffman's case on Dec. 8, pending Supreme Court action.

Friday's dismissal was the second sought by the government since the court's 8-0 ruling. On July 6, charges were dropped against another May Day organizer, Bradford Lytle, a Quaker, who had been charged with assaulting a police officer with a bullhorn.

The high court left the government the alternative of making public evidence from its illegal wiretaps. About a dozen other indictments remain which were brought as the result of similar wiretaps. The Justice Department has indicated it would jeopardize the national security to make the wiretap information available.